



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2007

OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS PRESS RELEASE & ADVISORY

SANDERS RELEASES PUBLIC DOCUMENTS RELATED TO EVENTS PRECEDING SOLEDAD LANDSLIDE

Documents Form Part of Investigation

In furtherance of the principles of transparency and equal access to public information, Mayor Jerry Sanders today will release a portion of the public documents related to events preceding the Mount Soledad landslide on Wednesday, October 3rd. The documents being released cover July 18, 2007 through the present. As best can be discerned at present, July 18th is the first report of an activity at the site in the most recent time period. While not complete, the documents provide a snap-shot of how the City responded to the concerns of homeowners about soil movement and utility separations in the area. Additional documents, within and outside the time frame noted above, will be released in the coming weeks.

The documents will form part of the investigation that the Mayor has launched into the possible causes for the landslide. The investigation will also detail the City's reaction to events that preceded the slide, many perhaps unrelated. The Mayor has consistently asked everyone to maintain an open mind and not to reach premature judgments or conclusions. "I would ask that everyone suspend judgment on this subject until we are able to thoughtfully and deliberately determine, in an objective fashion, the circumstances that led to this catastrophic failure," said Mayor Sanders today.

MEDIA ADVISORY

What: Sanders Releases Documents Related to Events Preceding Landslide (July 18 - present). Additional documents will be released in the following weeks.

Media: Media wishing a set of the documents can come to the receptionist in the Mayor's office today at 2pm. One copy will be given to each news organization. This is for accredited media ONLY.

General Public: The same set of documents will be available to the public through the City Clerk's office beginning tomorrow morning, Thursday, October 11.

Where/	<u>For Media pick-up:</u>	<u>For General Public:</u>
When:	Mayor's Office	City Clerk's Office
	City Hall	City Hall
	202 C Street, 11 th Floor	202 C Street, 2 nd Floor
	Today, Wednesday, October 10	Tomorrow, Thursday, October 11
	2pm	[A copy will also be posted on the city's website at www.sandiego.gov]

Following this document is a summary of some of the events that preceded the slide.

###

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO EVENTS PRECEDING THE SOLEDAD LANDSLIDE

City Water and Wastewater Departments Related Events and Responses:

- On July 18, 2007, the first water leak in 3 ½ years in the landslide zone is reported to the City, and emergency work is performed near 5703 Soledad Mountain Road to repair a blown service.
 - A homeowner reports the water line repaired on July 18th is leaking again on August 1, 2007. The leak, which was minimal, was caused by a defective saddle in the water line and is repaired on August 6, 2007.
- One week later, MWWD televises the sewer lines on Soledad Mountain Road and reports no broken sewer mains, but does identify three root bound sewer laterals (which are the responsibility of the homeowners).
- A second leak is reported on August 10, 2007, at which time it is determined a water service line was pulled from the main line. The leak is repaired, and City staff is advised to make sure any leaks in the area receive high priority.
- Another leak is reported on August 31, 2007, but leak detection crews could not locate any leak.
- A magnitude 4.0 earthquake occurs on September 4, 2007 at 7:47 a.m. 8 miles southwest of La Jolla. At this point, it is unknown whether this event contributed to the landslide.
- A third leak is reported by a homeowner on September 14, 2007, and is repaired that same day.
- On September 20, 2007, the City began installation of a temporary high-line system.
- By September 30, 2007, City staff observes cracks in Soledad Mountain Road had widened. That same day, a leaking fire hydrant is reported, which is repaired on October 1, 2007.
- At approximately 8:50 a.m. on October 3, 2007, the landslide begins.

Communications with Affected Residents:

- With assistance from the City Attorney's Office, a letter to homeowners on Soledad Mountain Road is hand-delivered on September 19, 2007 advising them of the City's plan to highline the water service. The City Attorney's Office removes any reference to soil movement from the letter. On September 20, 2007, the City began installation of a temporary high-line system.

- On October 2, 2007, the City distributes two letters to homeowners on Soledad Mountain Road, advising homeowners at 4 residences to not sleep in their homes that evening.

City Response (other than to Water and Sewer Issues)

- On August 15, 2007, City staff forms a team comprised of personnel from water, streets, sewer, and the City Attorney's Office to monitor and investigate concerns raised on Soledad Mountain Road. The first meeting of the City's Soledad Mountain Road team is held.
- On September 17, 2007, the Soledad Mountain Road Team, including the City Attorney's Office, holds its second meeting, and the decision is made to advise homeowners of the City's on-going work and investigation, and to retain an outside geotechnical consultant to assist in the evaluation of Soledad Mountain Road.

On this same day, the City receives a report prepared by an independent geotechnical engineer hired by a homeowner. The report indicates the affected property is experiencing soils movement, but recommends the homeowner monitor the home for six (6) months before determining if repairs or remediation is necessary.

- A third meeting of the Soledad Mountain Road Team, including the City Attorney's Office, takes place on October 1, 2007. The City's outside geotechnical consultant has begun its investigation at Soledad Mountain Road this day.
- Virtually all City operational departments were involved in events preceding the landslide. In the hopes of preventing an event, the City:
 - Reduced speed limit from 35 to 25 mph to reduce road vibration.
 - Geotechnical consultant was hired and on site.
 - Police and fire departments had been notified of the situation and the fire department had made arrangements in case of emergency.
 - Sewer lines were televised with no problems discovered.
 - Water service was high-lined.
- The City's geologist, Rob Hawk, was personally involved in the incident from the beginning and marshaled the City's resources to limit to destruction to public and private property.